

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Serial Number: 10/022,153

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Title: COMPUTERIZED PATENT AND TRADEMARK FEE PAYMENT METHOD AND SYSTEM

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**IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A computerized method and system for the payment of patent and trademark fees is disclosed. The patent or trademark fee for a client of a firm is charged against an account maintained by an organization separate from the firm. A charge issued at a workstation at the firm is delivered to a patent or patent and trademark agency, or a foreign associate firm, where it is cashed against an account maintained by the separate organization. The firm bills the client for the fee, along with a service charge, while the separate organization bills the firm for the fee and the service charge. Payment from the client to the firm for the fee and service charge is then sent to the separate organization to cover the firm's bill from the separate organization. In another embodiment a law firm has at least one first account for paying at least some expenses incurred by the law firm, and uses the account to pay out-of-pocket costs incurred for one or more clients of the law firm, wherein at least some of the out-of-pocket costs are financed, and payments are specified for payment using a computer. Further, using a computer, an associated expense is determined for each of at least some of the financed out-of-pocket costs, wherein the associated expense is i) based on an expense associated with the financing that is at least in part dependent on a length of time the law firm has to wait to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket costs, and ii) and determined substantially at the same time the corresponding out-of-pocket cost is specified to be paid. The law firm bills, using a computer, the one or more clients of the law firm for at least some of the financed out-of-pocket costs and for the associated expenses corresponding to the at least some out-of-pocket costs, wherein the billing for corresponding out-of-pocket costs and associated expenses are presented in the same invoice.